United Nations S/2009/466

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 September 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 14 September 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its 132nd ordinary session, held at the ministerial level on 9 September 2009 in Cairo, regarding the Security Council's high-level summit meeting to be held in New York on 24 September 2009, on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament (see annex).

Pursuant to article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador

09-51610 (E) 170909 170909

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 14 September 2009 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at the 132nd ordinary session at the ministerial level concerning the high-level Security Council meeting on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament that is to be held on 24 September 2009

At its 132nd ordinary session, the Council of the League of Arab States at the minister of foreign affairs level welcomed positive indicators in the international arena in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation and, in particular, the call for a world free of nuclear weapons. Some of the most significant developments following that call included the conclusion of a preliminary agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons; the adoption by the non-proliferation conference in Geneva of a programme of work that includes the inauguration of negotiations over a convention to halt the production of fissile materials; the affirmation by many parties that the universality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty represents an immediate priority for the international community; and, finally, the call made by the United States for a Security Council summit to be held in New York on 24 September 2009 on issues relating to non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Council of the League of Arab States affirms that those developments require collective discussions and a mechanism for negotiation which are aimed at achieving an international plan that will successfully rid the world of nuclear weapons. It therefore welcomes the call for discussion of those matters at a special high-level session of the Security Council, and stresses that all those steps constitute excellent preparation for the convening of the 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York and will help to create an environment that is conducive to the success of that Conference and lead, more generally, to increased confidence in multilateral diplomacy.

With a view to contributing to and enriching international discussion of those issues, the Council of the League of Arab States, recalling the initiatives that were launched by the League over the past three decades with the aim of supporting the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and ridding the world and, in particular, the Middle East, of such weapons, would like to affirm the following:

1. The Arab States support all calls for a world free of nuclear weapons and for the universality of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They are ready for constructive discussions that will promote the implementation of those goals.

2. The universality of the Treaty is a major challenge and immediate priority for the international community. Without such universality, endeavours will falter and a climate of mistrust will continue to exist, particularly when there are countries that refuse to become a party to the Treaty and possess nuclear weapons and military programmes and nuclear installations that are not subject to international safeguards, thereby imperilling security and peace at the regional and international levels.

3. Failure to ensure the universality of the Treaty will make it difficult for non-nuclear States which are party to the Treaty to accept the imposition of any further obligations that are intended to strengthen the Treaty while other countries, not party thereto, refuse to make the most basic commitments and enjoy every advantage without being subject to any pressures.

4. If the aim of ridding the world of nuclear weapons is to be achieved, an immediate start must be made on practical steps that form part of a declared plan. The first such step should be to end the role played by nuclear weapons in State security and defence strategies.

5. The international community has at various international forums adopted scores of resolutions calling for the Middle East to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone. One of the most important of those resolutions was adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference. Nevertheless, not a single step has been taken towards implementing that resolution, because Israel refuses to become a party to the Treaty. The time has come for the international community to strive to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. As long as there continues to be a State that refuses to become a party to the Treaty and possesses nuclear installations that are not subject to the comprehensive safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Middle East will remain a source of unease in respect of nuclear non-proliferation and its security will continue to be at risk.

6. Nuclear non-proliferation efforts must take into account the regional dimensions. It is not sufficient to deal with each State on an individual basis. In the Middle East, this matter must be comprehensively addressed through a regional and international approach that will ensure the security of all parties.

7. All the Arab States have become parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They have not used the Arab-Israeli struggle as an excuse for delaying accession. They therefore reject the argument that calls for peace to be established first, before Israel becomes a party to the Treaty or a zone free of nuclear weapons is established.

8. There must be no infringement of the right of all States Parties to the Treaty to possess and develop nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. States that are not party to the Treaty should not be granted the same rights.

9. All the Arab States, supporting as they do non-proliferation and, in particular, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, underline that nuclear weapons cannot be considered as a means of achieving security for any party, otherwise there will inevitably be a regional arms race.

The Council of the League of Arab States at the ministerial level looks forward to the consideration by the high-level Security Council meeting that is to be held on 24 September 2009 of various dimensions of the disarmament and non-proliferation issues, while taking into consideration the security needs of all parties.

(Communiqué No. 129, ordinary session 132, second meeting, 9 September 2009)